

affixed their names to the document would not be esteemed revolutionists. They vindicate no new revolutionary principles, but appeal to ancient laws and liberties, and, apart from their championship of Protestantism, they are mediaeval, not modern, in spirit. Strictly constitutional their action was not. But the facts adduced were amply sufficient to justify it on moral and political grounds.

For the present it was, however, singularly ineffective. From her citadel in Leith, Mary of Guise could afford to ridicule the solemn sentence hurled at her head, and the attempts of the lords to bring it home to her at the point of sword and cannon were disastrous failures. Their raw levies were beaten in several skirmishes by her disciplined troops, and even, on one occasion, pursued into the heart of the capital. There was nothing for it but a second retreat to Stirling. It was now the turn of the regent to assume the offensive, and, with the arrival of additional French detachments and the advance of D'Oysel against Stirling, things looked desperate enough for the lords and the preachers. At D'Oysel's approach they fled from Stirling. Knox's prophecies seemed to have lured them only to destruction. From Stirling D'Oysel turned eastwards through Fife, in spite of the strenuous opposition of Lord James and Arran, to attack St Andrews. "Where is now John Knox his God?" cried the regent in triumph. "My God is stronger than his, even in Fife." The startling appearance in the Firth of Forth of an English fleet, which D'Oysel mistook for an expected French squadron, came just in time (23rd January 1560) to reassure Knox that Providence was still on his side. In response to a new appeal for help, made on behalf of the lords by Maitland of Lethington, whose diplomatic ability made him a formidable recruit, Elizabeth had at last resolved to intervene to the extent at least of blocking the Forth against further reinforcements from France. The swelling of the French army in Scotland by successive detachments was a menace to England as well as Scotland which she could no longer afford to ignore. Hence the appearance of the English squadron, which frightened D'Oysel into a precipitate retreat back to Stirling and Leith. In another month the Treaty of Berwick, concluded by the Duke of Norfolk on behalf of